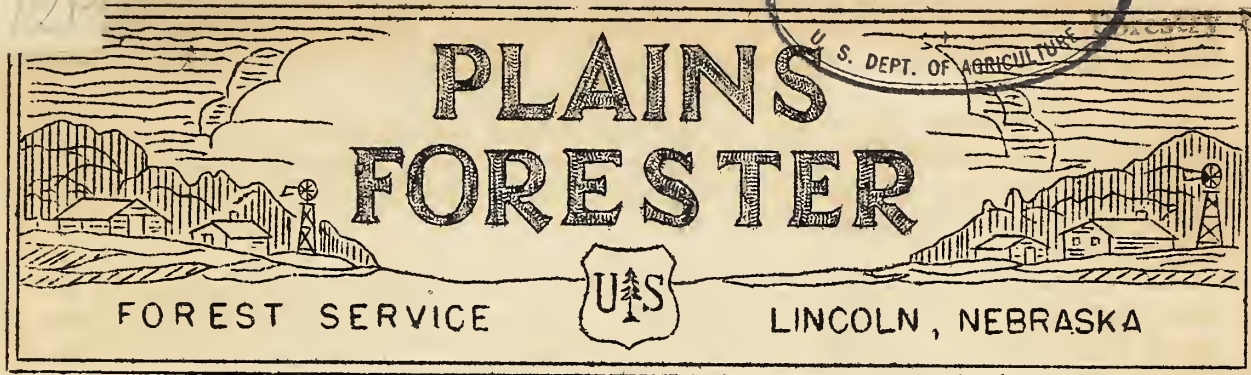


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Vol. 6, No. 4

April - 1941

WE NEED UNITY

- By Fred R. Yaruss, Okla.

The successful operation of any industry or organization is based on division of labor and on close cooperation and coordination between individuals. The Department of Agriculture is a large industry producing better farming, better conditions for farmers, and in the end the best use of one of our most necessary resources - soil.

Can you imagine a factory in which one man makes the models, the dies, the molds, finishes the parts and assembles the finished product? How many cars could Ford plants turn out if each employee had to make a complete car operating all the machines and doing all the work himself? Or can you imagine the appearance of a car which was made by experts, but where each expert made his special part to suit his own taste rather than to fit the final car?

The whole broad organization of government employees whose agencies are working toward the same goal, that of achieving optimum farming methods and conditions in the United States, is engaged in manufacturing soil conservation. The factory is operated, not by an industrialist, but as a co-operative. The consumers and the producers have equal interests and equal rights in the organization.

Let us look at the factory personnel list. General manager, the President; board of directors, Congress; production manager, Secretary of Agriculture; foremen of the various shops, bureau and office chiefs; skilled labor, WE, the field force, doing the job for which we are trained.

We now have a product, and a production force. How is the product marketed? Just like any other product, a demand is created by education, advertising and publicity, and we help in this educational work.

Each state has men who devote some part of their time to public relations. Each district officer bears the burden of this work in his district. Each subdistrict man devotes part of his time to the contact and educational work.

But! There is one Departmental agency which is comparable to the advertising office of an industrial establishment - the extension services of the states and Federal Government. And it is up to us to make use of them.

Every county agent and every vocational agricultural teacher will advertise the shelterbelt program if he is well enough acquainted with it. We must show them how our program fits in with theirs as well as with the programs of other federal agencies.

Make them see the whole machine. An odd fender looks useless by itself, but on a car it looks important. Make each potential booster understand your job in the machine of conservation and you will find him to be a willing and active cooperator.

When you get him to the point of appreciating your work, ask his advice. He knows the county better than you do. Get him to help outline optimum work areas from the community concentration and soil angle. Go with him to local meetings in these areas if he holds meetings. Give him all the information he wants and supply him with application blanks.

Let him help you negotiate. It is human nature to appreciate some one or something which you have helped and worked for.

A few "Ghost Negotiators" will make your work better.

CORNELL PLUGS SHELTERBELTS

In a Cornell (New York) Rural School Leaflet there is, in addition to other information on forests and trees, a page devoted to the value of trees in protecting farms, accompanied by a small-scale drawing showing the principle of a shelterbelt.

A few lines quoted from this leaflet indicate that the importance of protective plantings is recognized, as well as other phases of forestry.

"A row of Norway spruces grows beside the buildings of many of the long-established farms in New York and other States. These were planted in the days before forestry was taught in the schools of America. They were the result of a hand-me-down type of education or of good salesmanship on the part of some nursery, but they have given these homes protection from driving winds, shade for the house and flower garden, cones for starting the fires in the fall, and music when the wind blows through their tops. Under these trees the hammocks are swung, the picnic suppers are held, and the children play.

"Only comparatively recently has this idea of protection by shelter belts been taken seriously by the government. While New York farmers were protecting their homes with these windbreaks, western farmers were plowing up the great areas now known as the "dust bowl," from which come the destructive dust storms, and from which the residents are now trying to move. A federal project to establish a shelter belt to conserve the rich farms of the corn belt was started in 1934, though small shelterbelts have been encouraged since the Timber Culture Act was passed in 1873. There are already 2 million acres of these shelter belts....."

- L. S. Matthew, R.O.

1,000 TREES ARE
HARVESTED EVERY
THREE MINUTES

Varieties Are in Fine
Shape for Shelterbelts

WPA workers, employed by the forest service at Norfolk, this week are harvesting trees at the rate of 1,000 every three minutes.

The trees, dug by tractor equipment, are pulled by hand, graded for size, counted, tied into bundles of fifty, and loaded on trucks headed for shelterbelt planting areas.

Tree harvesting is usually done in the late fall, but the Armistice day storm and freeze-up caught 1,700,000 trees unharvested at the nursery here. All of them are hardy varieties which can winter over the field without injury. They are in fine condition for planting.

Assembly-line methods and good crew organization partly account for the fast rate of harvesting; but working in a stooping position brings unused muscles into use, and there were fifty-seven lame backs in Norfolk Monday night.

According to nurseryman, Carl A. Taylor, nursery work has a fascination which attracts many of the men. Seeing millions of tiny brown seeds come to life and grow into little trees which someday may make fence posts, apple pies, cathedral beams, or just generations of pleasant shade is the nurserymen's reward. For this they labor in the sun fighting weeds, insects or disease attacking the seedlings, he said.

The Norfolk nursery of the forest service has been one of the highest efficiency rated nurseries for the past three years. Taylor says this is evidence of the "good bunch of workers employed here."

BANK ENDORSES PROJECT

The Brookings, South Dakota, branch of the Northwest Security National Bank occasionally circularizes the farmers in its trade territory on timely matters of farming and banking interest. Recently it got out such a circular letter on stock-raising and feeding, and the credit facilities available to growers and feeders, and it contains the following postscript:

"Shelterbelts--Farmers of this county and territory enjoy the privilege of being near the state office of the Shelterbelt Project. Many miles of trees can be planted in this county to advantage. If the farmers do not take advantage of this available service, the shelterbelt benefits may be lost. Why not arrange now to have some trees planted this spring? These people are ready to serve you."

Needless to say, there are few more potent endorsements than those of the local bank. Farmers may question the wisdom, economic and otherwise, of almost everyone else, but if their banker says that a shelterbelt is a good investment you can be pretty sure that they will accept his judgment.

THE EVOLUTION OF OUR PLANTING PROCEDURE
(How Time Changes Things)

Since Dave Olson has appropriated the job of publicity agent for the planting machines it is not very likely that a bystander can get in a word. It is generally agreed that Henry and Dave can out-argue most everybody on the Project. In this case, however, they certainly have some heavy?? data to back up their arguments.

I remember very well that in 1936 the idea of a planting machine was a laughable subject. It just couldn't work because:

1. It had never been done.
2. It would not pack the dirt around the roots.
3. The dry soil would surely fall around the roots and injure the tree.
4. The packing wheels would scar or injure the stock, causing the entry of fungus.
5. The machine would be too cumbersome to load and transport from belt to belt.

Henry took all these jibes and many others stoically, offering to bet he would develop a machine one day which would do the job.

There has been a great evolution in our planting procedure since the windy day of March, 1935, which incidentally is exactly six years ago this month, when the first shelterbelt was planted here in Greer County, Oklahoma. On the first three belts the planters worked in pairs. One man carried the shovel and the "tree bucket," which was a five-gallon oilcan with about two gallons of water in the bottom to keep the stock damp. The first one I helped carry had large holes rusted out in the bottom and we added about three inches of dirt to stop the holes. I can assure you it was a good job carrying that 30- to 40-pound bucket. The first man dug the hole and the second man placed the tree and packed the dirt. He would work on his knees, push the loose dirt in with his free hand, and pack with his fist. Aubry Kirk, the present subdistrict officer at Mangum, worked as a laborer on these crews and he said the fists were really sore the next day.

We have found by experience that trees will grow without such heavy packing of dirt around the roots. A thorough examination showed that the planting machine packed the moist dirt firmly around all the roots, which is sufficient. One tractor (a Farmall F20) would not pull the machine in loose blow sand, but it moved right along on all other soils. We screwed the governors down and traveled along in low gear. This is a good, fast-walking pace over a field. We planted a demonstration belt of three rows a quarter of a mile long in about 45 minutes. The farmer was so pleased with the planting that he decided to leave the trees there and signed an agreement for an intermediate belt. The net result was an addition of a quarter mile belt which made our demonstration profitable.

- Howard Carleton, Jr., Okla.

URGES SHELTERBELT ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Mamie Axline Fay who, it may be remembered, sponsored a gigantic picnic in her Pratt County, Kansas, shelterbelt last summer, wrote the following letter to the Topeka Daily Capital:

"To the Editor of The Capital -

I feel sure you are interested in the rehabilitation of our state. I put it this way because the 1940 census showed a net loss of over 82,000 people in Kansas in ten years. This loss, which occurred in the western part of the state, is a serious problem and we ought to do something about it -- don't you agree?

This year prospects seem the best in years. Better conditions, due chiefly to generous rains, encourage us to try again. I wish you could know all this country as I know it, having come here when there were no trees, and experienced blizzards, droughts and grasshoppers. I have lived here since 1877.

The many who attended the shelterbelt picnic on my farm last August were loud in their praise of the trees, their beauty and their usefulness. If you could realize the conditions under which they were planted -- the handicaps of weather, bugs, rabbits, etc., you would more than ever before appreciate what trees can do. But one shelterbelt is of little value. Mine will accomplish very little even for me if it must stand alone. Mr. Logue, who has one three-quarters of a mile north of mine, will join me in saying this.

I believe there is a need for an organization of shelterbelt owners and others interested in what trees can do for Kansas. We should keep our need before those who have influence and can assist us in this. We can plan an annual picnic, put over publicity, and do many things with the Forest Service representatives and other organizations which are interested, but cannot take the initiative. If you are interested, please let me hear from you. No matter how hard or efficiently he works, one individual cannot accomplish very much in a matter of this kind, but if all who are interested will get together with a long pull and a strong pull, we can rescue Kansas from dust storms, re-establish homes, in fact, bring her back to prosperity.

What do you think about a Kansas Shelterbelt Association? Please let me know.

Mamie Axline Fay,
Fay Farm, Pratt, Kansas."

Commenting on the letter, the editor said: "The organization of a shelterbelt association to encourage the planting of trees in Kansas, suggested in the above letter, is a fine idea. The Capital would be glad to co-operate with all those interested in such a worth-while project."

YE GODS AND LITTLE -- SHRUBS!

The largest tree, that is, greatest diameter, that I have found in our shelterbelts to date, measures between eight and nine inches diameter at stump height. This was found in Kansas on the 1935 Herman Witt planting. The species is -- get ready for a shock -- Russian Olive! and of course it's sitting out in the "shrub" row.

- D. S. Olson, R.O.

MORE ABOUT "POOR STOCK"

Dear Red: - Anent your article "Information Please" in the February number. To a certain extent this business of survival is like the negro who said, "If you hit your leg on a crosscut saw, you wouldn't know which tooth did it, would you?"

Sitting as I do in a cross-fire between planting men and nurserymen, I can appreciate that the nurserymen are beginning to be a little irked at this continual holler of "poor stock." I am quite sure that the field men overemphasize poor stock. Yet when they refer to poor stock they do not necessarily mean stock which failed to meet the grading specifications. For example: North Dakota produced superpremium Green Ash. The field men were pleased in the spring. But this same block of stock was out of balance; survival was poor, and by fall the field men said on the survival survey, "Poor stock."

There is another point - take any bundle of 100 trees of our standard grade and lay them out carefully where you can see them all. Anywhere from 10 to even 30 or 40 of these trees will be at or near the minimum of the grade specifications. Such trees are poor stock, notwithstanding the fact that they passed the grade. A few that are below specifications will even slip by the graders. When a tree which is near the minimum size is planted out and grows for a time and dies, the field man who is looking over results says "Poor stock." He does not measure it, but he does look to see whether it was planted right. If it didn't even start to grow he says, "Poor handling." If the hoppers or rabbits ate it up he says "Insects, etc." Then there are the badly formed trees - some get by the graders - too much top, no lateral roots to speak of, frozen tops or die back of some kind. Again the field men call it poor stock.

Most of the administrative studies to date point to a 1/4-inch hardwood as giving the best survival. Well, we know darned well that a nurseryman won't be able to produce all of his trees 1/4 inch and well-formed. To push the bulk of them to 1/4 inch, in a hundred he may get 10 or 15 quite a bit over, 10 or 15 a little under, and a few root-stripped, bushy-topped, short, or what have you?

I believe, Red, that ten years from now our dominant cause of loss will still be "poor stock" and rightly so, even though we will make the proper progress in the nursery game. At the same time, I am quite sure that the field men should classify losses in the light of grade specifications rather than the ideal seedling which every planting man is thinking of. We hear a little too much holler about poor stock when in reality it is pretty good, though still subject to improvement.

If we have the right idea as foresters there are only four major causes of loss to be recognized: (1) poor stock, (2) poor handling, (3) poor planting, and (4) damage (cultivation, etc.). Drought and insects do not count. We are supposed to be recognizing those problems and planting with methods and stock that will take it.

- L. A. Williams, N. Dak.

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"Books are the everburning lamps of accumulated wisdom."

- G. W. Curtis (Reg. 9 Bulletin)

BEAUTIFUL SPRING!

One of the nurseryman's big headaches down here is to get the usable stock shipped out and the land prepared and the liners lined out before they are in full leaf. This is a double headache where the heeling-in is done in the field as the stock is dug, especially when the winter has been exceedingly wet and cold and the districts could not haul their stock until early spring as was the case this season.

And speaking of Spring, one never knows when Spring is just around the corner in Oklahoma. She is a very fickle lass and unpredictable. In 1937 she didn't come at all - just fooled around and finally sent Summer in her stead. In 1938 she made up for that by arriving on January 7, and making it so warm and balmy that the Apricot, Walnut and Burr Oak seed began sprouting in the outside stratifying pits on January 21. What a Dame! In 1939 it was so dusty at the Chickasha Nursery I could not see the little girl when she did arrive. (I am still talking about Springtime.) In 1940 she came and went two or three times and every time she went, Old Man Winter returned and froze the leaves off the little trees and killed the seed crops. What a climate!

In 1940 the schedule at the Chickasha Nursery had set up for lining-out approximately 7 acres of liners. The job was completed on March 10, and none too soon at that, as the last stock that was lined-out was beginning to leaf out.

The schedule at Chickasha this year calls for approximately 20 acres of liners and it is now March 18; the field is full of usable stock yet to be hauled by the districts, then the land will have to be leveled and plowed before the big job of lining-out gets under way. A nurseryman with a weak constitution could not stand up under such a terrific strain. Here's all this work to do at this late date, knowing that the Maiden Spring is sure to send Dame Summer in her stead and the WPA boys at Chickasha will stop freezing and begin sweating (perspiring to the R.O.) and in 72 hours the trees will begin to leaf out and summer is nigh.

It is only because I've learned to out-smart the climate of this country that I am able to stand it at all. My liners are in cold storage sleeping soundly, and I am reasonably certain fickle Spring will not awaken them until they are lined-out and all danger of a late freeze is past.

Last year (in an experimental way) I held stock in cold storage and lined it out at intervals up to May 15, and the stock lined out May 15 grew as well as the first liners planted. Lining-out cold storage stock may not be so successful this year, but here's hoping.

- S. A. Byars, Okla.

P.S. - ED: I have even a better way of handling liner stock which I will tell you some time when you pay me that 85¢ you owe me. - S.A.B.

(Editor's Note - We don't recall any 85 cent debt owed to Sam, but just to be on the safe side, we hereby charge him that amount for the privilege of advertising his superior constitution in the columns of this upper-class publication. So we are all even.)

INDIAN TALK ON SOIL EROSION WINS

A gullied field and a deserted house go together, according to Clarence Roberts, editor of the Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman. Recently he published two pictures, one of a dilapidated house and the other of an eroded field - then he asked his readers to participate in a "You Write the Story" contest.

Out of 2,605 entries, the judges selected as top prize winner, this letter submitted by O. E. Enfield of Arnett, Oklahoma:

MAYBE THE INDIAN WAS RIGHT, AFTER ALL

Both pictures show white man crazy. Make big tepee. Plow hill. Water wash; wind blow soil. Grass gone, land gone, door gone, window gone - whole place gone to hell. Buck gone. Squaw too. Papoose gone. No Chuckaway, no pig, no corn, no cow, no hay, no pony.

Indian no plow land. Keep grass. Buffalo eat. Indian eat buffalo. Hide make tepee, make moccasin. Indian no make terrace, no build dam, no give damn. All time eat. No hunt job, no hitchhike, no ask relief. No shoot pig. Great Spirit make grass. Indian no waste anything. Indian no work. White man heap loco.

- Clipped from Stanton (Nebr.) Register
and

Submitted by E. E. Evans, Nebr.

VALUE IN BIRD FEEDING PENS

Several weeks ago we received a copy of a memorandum from Director Paul Roberts suggesting that we build a few bird feeding pens as a trial venture. We built four or five just to see what they would do.

On a cold, windy day I slipped up on one of the pens located on the E. A. Kirk planting. I was surprised even beyond the greatest of expectations for there were over a hundred birds feeding there and a large number perched in the trees nearby. I made a rapid estimate of the birds in the pen and identified the following: 40 to 50 meadow larks; about 30 sparrows, both English and field; 8 doves; about 20 starlings; 3 robins; 1 blue jay; and even 2 black crows. There were 2 red-headed woodpeckers hopping about in the trees, and I wondered why they were there since they were not interested in the milo placed in the pens. A few minutes of observation with the glasses, however, revealed that they were digging out and eating the borers in the Cottonwood limbs. I suppose they liked the company of the other birds and just stuck around. A couple of sparrow hawks flew by every once in a while and it was not hard to figure why they were there. None of the birds paid any attention to the hawks since they were protected by the trees.

Mr. Kirk has placed a little over a hundred pounds of grain in his feeding pens and feels that he has been repaid by their company even if he gets no other benefits from them. It was an interesting two hours I spent with the birds and I could not help but wish Ed Perry had been here with his picture-taking machine. I believe Mr. Roberts would have liked to have had a picture of about a hundred birds feeding together and a good picture of

several species feeding together would attract the attention of wildlife lovers and would be good advertising for our shelterbelts.

- Howard Carleton, Jr., Okla.

(Yea, Lord! You could wear out a few pictures of that kind just handing them out to newspapers. And why - oh, why - didn't someone train a \$1.00 Brownie or most any other kind of picture-taking device in that direction and get some shots? At the worst the pictures could be but failures; at the best they could be a lot better than Ed Perry usually does with his "picture-taking machine." - E. L. Perry.)

RABBITS LIKE FEEDING STATIONS, TOO

If it isn't one thing, it's another. Sometimes I get "plumb regusted!"

Last winter when the Regional Office came out with the idea of establishing bird shelters and feeding stations to attract game birds and hold them in shelterbelts as a first line of defense against insect invasion, I was elated. It gave us an opportunity to do something for wildlife--always popular with the public. I had visions of columns of free publicity and unsolicited pats on the back, and I went about with a feeling of smug complacency.

Well, we got the publicity--lots of it. We were the recipients of numerous pats on the back, to the extent that it was sometimes embarrassing. It did no good to protest the work was done only as a guard against insects. The Forest Service was at last doing something for wildlife besides plant trees.

But what happened? Shelters were established, feed was placed; birds were attracted and so were the rabbits. The shelters were placed in our older belts which were thought to be safely past the danger of rabbit damage. So what! So the rabbits came in and ate the grain and used the nearby trees for dessert. We have found several places where large Chinese Elm, American Elm and even Cottonwood in the immediate vicinity of the bird shelters are severely damaged by rabbits. It does no good in North Dakota, at least, to place poisoned bait near clean bait. The poisoned bait will invariably be left untouched. So we have another problem.

- Auburn S. Coe, N. Dak.

DISTRICT OFFICER HAS WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAM

District Officer W. J. Cochran, of South Dakota, takes to the air weekly on Radio Station KABR at Aberdeen. The county agent of Brown County has a 15-minute daily spot except Sunday on that station, and Cochran takes it over each Wednesday. The program, according to State Director Ford, is generally a dialogue between Cochran and the county agent, Cochran preparing a skeleton script for that purpose. What it really amounts to, apparently, is that Cochran writes the questions which the participants are to ask each other, and then relies upon the ingenuity of the "quizees" to supply a satisfactory and entertaining answer. Carrying the program naturally requires the expenditure of some time, but it is doubtless worth it.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER AIDS NEGOTIATIONS

Something new, at least to this district, is being tried in connection with negotiations. After scheduling several meetings at schoolhouses in cooperation with county agents, school superintendents, and other public-spirited individuals without meeting with too much success, Subdistrict Officer Longmoor and the District Officer decided to try some small meetings in farm homes. The District Officer has kodachrome slides, a projector, and a beaded screen on a tripod, all of which are suitable for showing slides to small groups as well as large ones.

Arrangements were made with Mr. W. P. Ramsey, cooperator, living in the concentration area of Washita County, for a meeting at his home. Mr. Ramsey is a very enthusiastic cooperator, and has a 1937 belt which he says saved his crop last year. He is desirous of seeing his neighbors receive the benefit of the program.

A township plat of his community was prepared with the shelterbelts now planted shown in green, and the location where shelterbelts could be planted shown in red. Mr. Ramsey invited in several of his neighbors, some of whom have shelterbelts and needed more, and some who have no shelterbelts at all. There were 14 present at the meeting, representing eight families.

After the folks had gathered in, the township plat was presented to Mr. Ramsey and explained. The group was approached from the standpoint that the program was their program, and that the Forest Service was in the community to assist them in any way possible in completing the pattern in their community. There was more enthusiasm shown over the township plat than there was over the slides, to tell the truth about it.

After the slides were shown, the men remained in the dining room and the group, with Mr. Ramsey leading, discussed ways and means of filling some of the gaps in the concentration. This was also informal, as it was somewhat crowded and the seating capacity was limited. There was only one chair in the room, and it was occupied by one of the older farmers. The District Officer took a seat on the dining-room table, the rest of the fellows sat on the floor, and about 45 minutes were devoted to the discussion. The group was thoroughly impressed with the fact that the shelterbelt program was theirs, and that the Forest Service officials were hired hands who were anxious to earn their wages by giving them service in every way possible.

When the District Officer left the meeting about 10:30, the group was still enthusiastically discussing who could handle whom and what would be the best and most logical manner of getting more shelterbelts in the community.

The township plat was prepared for their use and it was left with them with instructions for Mr. Ramsey to fill in any belts that might be obtained during the spring planting season. The result of the meeting was one and one-half miles of shelterbelt signed up for this spring planting.

- James W. Kyle, Okla.

INVALUABLE IN OLDEN DAYS, EVEN AS NOW

The pilgrims found a friendly forest when they set foot on the soil in Massachusetts. If it had been a barren, treeless country, they could

never have started settlement. The pilgrims needed the protection the forest gave. They needed fuel and lumber. They needed the wildlife of the forest. They needed the clear, pure water coming from unmolested brooks and creeks. They needed the soil the forest had built and protected through the centuries.

Our country was literally and actually carved from a friendly forest. The needs of an expanding settlement only magnified the needs of the few pilgrims who came first. The demands for a growing, youthful, virile nation were met by the forests as they gave way to agriculture and industry.

Today after 300 years of use we have one-fourth of our forest resource remaining.

Always the economically best has been used and the forest frontiers pushed farther and farther back. Will we as a nation awaken to the fact that a part of the greatness of our great nation comes from the greatness of the forest resource? Do we see clearly that we might have much less of our resource wealth in another 100 years?

If we are to have our trees and receive great values from them, we must use them wisely. In the Plains, in most cases, we must plant trees continuously to have them with us always.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

DUSTERS, MOVIES, AND SCHOOL KIDS

Ted Raide, of Oklahoma, says that on February 12 they had the most terrific duster in years. Talking with one of his cooperators afterward, the farmer said: "You can't tell me these shelterbelts don't check the wind. Away from my shelterbelt the sand just naturally picked up and left the country, but not where the belt broke the force of the wind." Ted says he asked the farmer why all farmers did not put in shelterbelts, but the fellow was stumped. "Danged if I know," he said. "I guess some are dumb and maybe others just plain stubborn. One thing that has bothered most of us, of course, is just hard times and no crops for so long that we just can't think of trees."

Ted has been listening to comments on the film "Trees to Tame the Wind" at the local theaters where it is being shown, and has come to the conclusion that "this job has a future with bouquets as well as brickbats in it." He says, "I have heard complimentary remarks from everyone, from school children to hardened businessmen. The tenor of their comments is 'I never thought much about this shelterbelt business, but that show proved to me that these belts are what this wind-blown country needs.'"

Ted read Ken Taylor's "As the Twig is Bent" in PLAINS FORESTER, and opines that Ken is right - at least if Ken isn't right then Ted has been wrong for the last two or three years. He says, "I have been in practically every schoolroom in the three counties in this Subdistrict, and can call the future farmers by their first names. A few years hence they are going to be applying for shelterbelts; in fact, one of them did apply for one right in the schoolroom. He insisted that I go and talk to his father who, he was certain, would be interested."

OLD PLAINS TREE BULLETINS STILL RING THE BELL

The recently published USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 364 entitled "A Selected Bibliography of North American Forestry" in two volumes, has no doubt been thumbed through by many of our personnel and perhaps many were surprised as I was at the great volume of material published prior to 1930 on Plains forestry. If anyone were inclined to feel that the Prairie States Forestry Project is pioneering in an unexplored field, the list of articles and bulletins relating to shelterbelt work that was published before this Project was ever thought of would be very illuminating.

Unfortunately it would be virtually impossible for any individual to assemble the complete library on Plains forestry publications. Much of the material appeared in magazines, professional journals, and State agricultural experiment station publications, copies of which are now difficult or impossible to obtain. The Regional Office library, for example, contains only a small number of the references listed under windbreaks and shelterbelts (39 out of 264 to be exact) so the chances of an individual building up a fairly complete library are rather remote. However, the Regional Office library has all of the Federal Government bulletins on Plains tree planting and many of these date back to the early 1900's. At that time the Forest Service took an active interest in Plains forestry and the following Forest Service bulletins were published:

- Bates, C. G. Windbreaks, Their Influence and Value,
U. S. Dept. Agr., For. Serv. Bull. 86, 100 pp. 1911.
- Bates and Pierce, R. G. Forestation of the Sandhills of Nebraska
and Kansas. U. S. Dept. Agr. Bull. 121, 44 pp. 1913.
- Clothier, G. L. Advice for Forest Planters in Oklahoma and Adjacent
Regions. U. S. Dept. Agr., For. Serv. Bull. 65,
46 pp. 1905.
- Petherolf, J. M. Forest Planting on the Northern Prairies. U. S.
Dept. Agr., For. Serv. Circ. 145, 28 pp. 1908.
- Kellogg, R. S. Forest Belts of Western Kansas and Nebraska. U. S.
Dept. Agr., For. Serv. Bull. 66, 44 pp. 1905.
- Miller, F. G. Forest Planting in Eastern Nebraska. U. S. Dept. Agr.
For. Serv. Circ. 45, 32 pp. 1906.
- Forest Planting in the North Platte and South Platte
Valleys. U. S. Dept. Agr., For. Serv. Circ. 109,
20 pp. 1907.
- United States Forest Service. Forest Planting in the Sandhill Region
of Nebraska. U. S. Dept. Agr., Forest Serv. Circ. 37,
5 pp. 1906.
- Suggestions for Forest Planting on the Semi-Arid Plains.
U. S. Dept. Agr., For. Serv. Circ. 99, 15 pp. 1907.

A study or reading of the above list of publications is well worth the time it takes. A surprisingly high proportion of the recommendations in these bulletins regarding choice of species and practices have stood the test of time. Actually, the Forest Service in those early days was technically well-equipped to carry out a program similar to the one in which we are now engaged. We can only console ourselves by saying, "Better late than never."

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

SHELTERBELTS CONTRIBUTE TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

On a recent Sunday, my family and I enjoyed the better part of an almost perfect spring day visiting the Wichita Mountain and Game Refuge in Western Oklahoma.

We had visited the numerous lakes and exhibition pastures, and before starting back for Elk City, we drove to the summit of Mount Scott, elevation 2,440 feet above sea level. This is an impressive drive for anyone. The mountain rises abruptly up from the plains and from its summit, the surrounding country spreads before the eye like a giant relief map.

Before starting down, we noticed a heavy, low cloud spreading down from the north still some distance away. By the time we reached the base of the mountain, a stiff north wind was blowing and the air was hazy. We knew what was up, and hoping that the duster would not develop into something serious, we headed for home. The road was alive with Sunday drivers all anxious to get home safely.

Reaching Lawton, we turned west on Highway No. 62. Pasture land on the north of the highway held fast against the wind from the north which was now a gale. Here the traffic moved rapidly as the visibility became good enough to allow a reasonably fast pace. Then with an anxious eye, we discerned wheat land on our north and an increased density of the haze. Some 200 yards before us there appeared a curtain of sand and silt, blasted out from the wheat land and out across the busy highway.

We pulled off to the side of the road and stopped short of the "black-out." Three passenger cars were in there, having piled up on each other in a blind effort to go through at 25 miles an hour. One was knocked at an angle into the south ditch. Fortunately, no severe injuries occurred. With blasting horn, straining eyes, and a snail's pace, we crawled through. A five-year-old shelterbelt along this highway would have prevented this serious hazard.

Highways throughout the western part of the State had many such treacherous spots that evening. Usually the soils of the adjacent fields would support a belt. Those that did, presented a protecting barrier - limited only by the age, height and density of the planting. Shelterbelts running parallel to highways and roads would pay out to the public during periods of high winds, from the standpoint of safety alone, by reducing a definite hazard and possibly saving human life.

- J. E. Longmoor, Okla.

LEARNING TO SPEAK IN TWELVE "EASY" LESSONS

Three doctors (physician, chiropractor and eye) a radio repairman, two transport men, a mortician, a druggist, three Forest Service men (Coe, Jeffers, Clark), a Fish and Wildlife man (McKee) make up a class of twelve in the Jamestown Public Speaking Club. The class originally started with thirteen, the thirteenth being a loan shark, but he fell by the wayside.

The class, which is sponsored by the Jamestown Junior Chamber of Commerce, meets each Monday for three months and is under the direction of Dr. W. E. Lillo, Professor of Speech of Jamestown College.

The members of the class are not trying to become "finished" orators - the objective, rather, is to acquire poise and confidence in public expression, resulting in more effective speech.

Most of us could stand a little improvement in our public speaking technique. If this shoe fits you, put it on - organize a speech class in your headquarters town. (If impossible to do it this spring, keep it in mind for next winter - it is a good winter project.) If you don't need the training yourself, organize a class as your contribution to community improvement.

In organizing a class, it is usually possible to obtain a college or high school speech instructor. The members of the Jamestown class pay the instructor \$5.00 each for the three months' course. Textbooks are not purchased inasmuch as the instructor is specializing more in actual practice and less in theory.

- G. K. Clark, N. Dak.

IT'S A GOOD METHOD, ANYWAY

W. G. Kunkle, Subdistrict Officer in Oklahoma, has been reading sundry items of late in this sterling publication about circular letters written by county agents and AAA committees in behalf of the shelterbelt planting program, and they merely serve to stir up his "Ho hum" complex. It is down in his Subdistrict that county agents and AAA committeemen really sit up nights thinking of new ways to cause farmers to trample each other in their eagerness to get shelterbelts or to take care of the ones they have.

In the seven counties comprising his Subdistrict, and during the three seasons of its existence, he reports, county agents have sent out 20 letters to farmers and cooperators, and AAA committees, two. The District Officer appends a note to the effect that additional letters have been put out in these counties, of which Kunkle has no record, and that the total should probably be boosted by from six to ten. One letter sent out by a county agent last year brought in 24 applications, 23 of which were signed up and planted.

Kunkle says: "Unquestionably this method gives most of the eligible public a chance to apply for a shelterbelt, is economical in operation, and rather successful as to results. It has not, however, been a cure-all for the negotiations problem in this Subdistrict, and many other methods of contacting the farmer are used as well."

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FOUR-ROW GANG TRENCHER REALLY WORKS

The nurserymen who attended the Fremont nursery meeting last September will recall the demonstration of the four-row gang trenching outfit. It was, I think, generally agreed at the time that the idea had merit, and while some "bugs" were apparent, it was thought that these could be removed. Gosnell was given the "trial horse" assignment and he has come through with an outfit that works to perfection for transplanting conifers at 14-inch-row spacing. I'll admit he threw one of my pet ideas overboard in constructing the trenchers, in that the cutting edges slope backward instead of pointing forward, but my feeling of consternation was short-lived when I saw the outfit perform.

Equipping the 40-Cat with eight-inch tracks (which also work well) permitted the adoption of 14-inch spacing between rows. Now all I've got to do is convince the rest of the boys who are growing conifers to follow suit.

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

COOPERATORS FORCED TO SHOW APPRECIATION OF SHELTERBELT

The title of this article expresses vividly the situation which occurred when Mr. Olson suggested that some experimental work on thinning of Gene and Elmer Sewell's shelterbelt be done.

The Sewell belt was planted in 1935 in cooperation with Mrs. Disa Jane Sewell who later died and left the land occupied by the trees to her sons, Gene and Elmer. I wouldn't say that Gene and Elmer inherited their indifference in regard to their shelterbelt from Mrs. Sewell, but would say their indifference was similar. At the time of the planting Mrs. Sewell did not like the species used, the location of the belt, or the fence constructed for the protection of the trees. After she had completed the agreement she vowed she would never enter into another mess of this kind and wished she had never started this one.

After Gene and Elmer became owners of these trees they proved to be very obstinate, threatening each year to plow up their trees and declaring steadfastly that the trees were planted too thick and that about half of them should be removed. However, after their delay of several threats and our patient bearing with the cooperators, the trees finally developed into an effective shelterbelt. This, though, was of no import to the Sewell boys and they were not willing to express a favorable attitude toward the trees.

The outward change of heart and mind came about in the Sewell boys when they were advised that it was our intention to do some experimental thinning of their trees. We were greatly surprised when the Sewells objected to the thinning and said they wanted the trees to be left there. However, Gene finally consented to the thinning in a special plot of 300 feet which produced 214 Black Locust posts of suitable size for use on the farm. Elmer, the other brother, refused to allow any thinning whatever except on the Cottonwood and said he did not want a single Black Locust or Bois d'Arc removed. He said these were growing fast and would make big posts in a year or two and he expected to make a considerable amount of money by thinning and selling these posts.

- Aubry E. Kirk, Okla.

AMONG THE R.O. PERSONNEL

We shall miss from our ranks Fiscal Agent Lee Stratton, who was recently transferred to Region 5 in San Francisco. Our good wishes are with him for success and happiness in his new surroundings. We worried considerably about the standing of the Lincoln Forest Service bowling team, since losing Lee meant losing one of our ace bowlers, but are breathing freely again since Bill Murray, who is acting as Fiscal Agent on detail from Region 4, has shown us that he knows all the answers on hook-ball performance. Bill is an old friend to many of us, as he was on the Project at its very beginning, and we are glad to have him with us again.

NEWCOMERS TO KANSAS

We are glad to welcome several additions to our Kansas personnel. Kenneth R. Gosling and Paul H. Talich came to Kansas from Athol, Massachusetts, where they were employed on the NEFE Project. Kenneth took charge of the Meade Subdistrict on February 26. Paul, who we understand was formerly employed for a short time on the PSFP in Nebraska, became Assistant Nurseryman at the Hutchinson Nursery on March 4. Omund A. Seglem came to Kansas on April 5 from the Superior Forest, Region 9, where he was employed in a CCC camp. He is stationed at Phillipsburg.

- John D. Hall, Kans.

POWER OF SUGGESTION

A farmer stated as he recently stopped in at the warehouse to arrange for a local rabbit hunt, "You know, this rabbit hunt is going to do my tree belt a lot of good. It is going to protect it from rabbits for years to come."

There is nothing strange about such a statement - except -- upon inquiry I found that he does not have a shelterbelt, nor had he even applied for one. When this was explained to him he said that he realized that, but he had examined his township tree committee map and had found that one was recommended for his farm. He told me, "I'm sure going to have one" -- and he will.

Here at least is one tree committee that has sold its township farmers on tree plantings.

- John J. Zaylskie, Nebr.

THE STATE OFFICE HAS A HORSE ON MIKE!

On reviewing one of his recent subdistrict office inspection reports, we were amazed to note the following sentence: "The instructions for culling stock, according to the State Office instructions, should be pasted on to the foreman and follow-up inspections made to see that instructions are being carried out."

Now, we have heard of sleeping on the subject and getting the gist of it, but this business of pasting instructions on a foreman is a new one to us. We wonder on what part of the foreman's anatomy Mike intends pasting these instructions and, further, we are curious to know just what kind of glue he intends to use.

Mike may have something there, at that.

- K. W. Taylor, Okla.

WE BOAST A COLUMNIST

Vying with Walter Winchell, Paul Mallon, et. al., L. D. Martelle, Nebraska Subdistrict Officer, conducts a column called "Trees" in two newspapers. The column has its own ornamental two-column head, and is made up of short items of general interest about trees. It is newsy and well turned out, and we will wager anything up to a dime that it gets read by a lot of people who pass over our general releases.